POL 14 VIETS

Department of State TELEGRAM

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 2029

LIMDIS

REF: STATE 216879

1. DURING A BRIEF DISC SSION JULY 27 WITH PRIME MINISTER KY ON THE SUBJECT OF ELECTIONS I RAISED THE IDEA OF ENCOURAG- ING A NUMBER OF QUALIFIED VIET CONG RALLIERS TO PRESENT THEMSELVES AS CANDIDATES FOR THE LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS, NTTING THE ADVANTAGES THIS MIGHT OFFER IN PROMOTING THE GVN-S NATIONAL SOLIDARITY PROGRAM. KY AGREED THAT THIS WAS A USEFUL IDEA AND WOULD GIVE FURTHER INCENTIVE TO BOTH THE CHIEU HOI

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AND DOAN KET PROGRAMS. HE SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF FINDING A NUMBER OF RALLIERS WHO WOULD BE WORTH- WHILE CANDIDATES AND ENCOURAGING THEIR CANDIDACY.
2. IN TALKING ABOUT ELECTION PROSPECTS GENERALLY, KY SAID THAT THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CENTRAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE WAS GOING QUITE WELL. HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES POSED FOR THE AVERAGE VOTER BY THE COMPLEXITY OF THE SENATE LISTS. HE CONFIRMED HIS INTENTION TO TIE IN ABOUT 6 SENATE LISTS TO THE THIEU/KY SLATE SO THAT THE VOTERS COULD IDENTIFY THEM AS ALLIED WITH THEIR TICKET. HE HOPED THAT SOME OF THE OTHER CANDIDATES MIGHT FOLLOW A SIMILAR COURSE.
3. HE REMARKED THAT PROTESTS, WITH SOME THREATS TO

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BOYCOTT THE ELECTIONS, WERE NOW COMING IN FROM SOME OF THE CAO DAI AND MILITANT BUDDHISTS WHOSE TICKETS HAVE BEEN REJECTED. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, ENVISAGE A SITUATION DEVELOPING WHICH COULD NOT BE SATISFACTORILY HANDLED AND OBSERVED THAT MEMBERS OF THE CAO DAI AS WELL AS BUDDHISTS WERE SCATTERED THROUGH ALL THE TICKETS. AS TO THE OTHER ASPECTS OF THE ELECTIONS HE FELT PREPARATIONS WERE GOING

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AHEAD WELL AND EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED AMONG ALL THE CANDIDATES REGARDING USE OS RADIO AND TELEVISION FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION.
4. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, KY EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT THE CLIFFORD-TAYLOR MEETING. HE THOUGHT THE FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS HAD BEEN USEFUL AND WAS PLEASED AT THE REMARKS MADE BY BOTH CLIFFORD AND TAYLOR AT THEIR PRESS CONFERENCE ON THEIR DEPARTURE. BUNKER

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